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Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. International Alliance of Women

(General consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes of the organization

Women's rights are human rights. Human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The International Alliance of Women (IAW) affirms that full and equal enjoyment of human rights is due to all women and girls. IAW maintains that a prerequisite of securing these rights is the universal ratification and implementation without reservation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Priorities for further action concern civil and political rights; education for all: legal literacy; and the issues of violence and health.

Membership, December 1997

Total: 640 from 72 countries

Geographical distribution	*Number of members*	*Number of countries*
Western Europe	400	17
Eastern Europe	17	7
Middle East	23	4
Africa	64	21
Asia	37	7
Americas	42	10
Pacific	55	6

New affiliates since 1993 include organizations from: Togo; Yugoslavia; Japan; Mozambique; South Africa; Ireland; the Republic of Bashkortostan and Egypt.

Financial issues

The income of IAW is derived from membership fees and interest on fixed-term deposits. A few affiliates and associates are unable to pay their fees but are carried for several years depending on the circumstances. The Secretary and Treasurer each recovers her expenses. Travelling and other costs are borne by individuals or affiliates.

IAW representation

International:

(a) New York:

(i) 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997: Economic and Social Council (New York and Geneva);

(ii) Thirty-sixth, thirty-ninth, fortieth, forty-first sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(iii) Second, third, fourth and fifth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(iv) 1995: Preparatory Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women; 1996: NGO Committee on UNICEF;

(b) Vienna:

(i) 1994 European regional preparatory meeting for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

(ii) 1995: Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing);

(iii) 1996: Fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(iv) 1997: Fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(v) 1997: Sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(c) Geneva:

(i) Commission on Human Rights: 1994; 1995; 1996;

(ii) 1996: Subcommissions on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: racism; status of women; 1996 working groups on women's human rights; traditional practices; active role in preparing non-governmental statements;

(iii) International Labour Organization (ILO): 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997: eighty-second to eighty-fifth General Conferences; 1994: agreement on self-employment; 1996: working groups on women and employment; home work; child labour; active role in preparing non-governmental organization statements on these;

(iv) 1996 IAW Round Table on Human Rights and Human Settlements;

(v) World Health Organization (WHO): 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997: forty-eighth to fiftieth World Health Assemblies; collaboration with non-governmental organization working groups on primary health care; traditional practices harmful to women and children; drug abuse; membership; Health Group in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women;

(d) Cairo: International Conference on Population and Development, 1994;

(e) Copenhagen: Commission for Social Development, 1995; also attended by many affiliates;

(f) Beijing: Fourth World Conference on Women: all affiliates sent delegates to Forum;

(g) Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Conference; 1995: Fourth World Conference on Women: representative of UNESCO non-governmental organizations at Hiarou Forum; 1995: Fourth World Conference on Women representative included in official French delegation; 1996: UNESCO projects on behalf of Francophone women of Southern and Northern Europe;

(h) Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) non-governmental organization 1995 consultations with the Committee on the Status of Women;

(i) Istanbul: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) 1995.

Regional:

(a) 1995: all regional preparatory committee meetings for Beijing were attended;

(b) 1994–1996: regional meetings prior to FAO World Food Summit;

(c) 1997 Manila Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Ministerial Meeting on Social Development; Sydney, meeting statement: violence against women; Geneva, WHO statement: reproductive health: right to health (IAW/Alliance internationale de femmes (AIF)).

Annual meetings and triennial congress:

(a) 1994: Netherlands: IAW international meeting;

(b) 1995: Beijing, Fourth World Conference on Women; executive meeting;

(c) 1996: Cyprus pre-Congress meeting; Calcutta, IAW Triennial Congress and Seminar on "The Girl Child";

(d) 1997: Executive Meeting (international telephone hook-up); Paris IAW Board Meeting and Seminar entitled "Bringing Home Beijing"; election to the Board of Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO).

Selected relevant activities:

(a) 1994–1997: Committee on the Status of Women written and oral statements have been presented as appropriate;

(b) 1994–1995: Preparatory committee meetings for Fourth World Conference on Women; involved participation in parallel non-governmental organizations;

(c) Consultations participating in workshops, caucus groups and seminars;

(d) 1995–1997: draft optional protocol to CEDAW; Open-ended Working Group on the elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Miscellaneous:

(a) 1994–1997: Non-governmental organization/ Commission on Sustainable Development science and technology; caucuses; IAW served as Chair, organizing round table, discussions and workshops;

(b) 1995: "Family Planning for All", result of joint International Conference on Population and Development panel with Medical Women's Association, 1994–1997; dissemination of *Safe Motherhood Newsletter* and other relevant WHO publications, particularly to affiliates in developing countries;

(c) 1994–1997: information, affiliates to WHO: rape, female genital mutilation, menopause, men on wives' health;

(d) 1997: CONGO, participation in Women's Health Group;

(e) 1997: NGO Coordinating Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; IAW recognized as member of the Group;

(f) 1997: World Health Assembly (WHA) collaboration: International Confederation of Midwives, reproductive health;

(g) 1997: report to the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Geneva;

(h) 1997: Committee on the Status of Women, New York: written statement in conjunction with the World Federation of Trade Unions on promoting and encouraging women to exercise their right of association, and on food security;

(i) 1997: Commission on Human Rights, Geneva; joint statement, Special Committee of NGOs on Human Rights, on independence of Special Rapporteurs;

(j) 1997: WHO: recommendation of ad hoc group of non-governmental organizations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the proposed General Recommendation on Health;

(k) 1997: WHO: IAW included in new non-governmental organization group on reproductive, family and community health and population issues;

(l) 1997: Frankfurt International Conference on Women's Life and Cancer;

(m) 1997: participation in Global Coalition on Women's Health;

(n) 1997: membership in Committee to Celebrate the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Western Australia;

(o) 1997: Women's Rural Day supported; promotion of 1998 Women's Rural Day and Committee on Food Security.

2. International Social Service

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes

International Social Service (ISS) is an international, non-governmental organization founded in 1924. Its aims are:

(a) To assist those who, as a result of voluntary or forced migration or other social problems of an international character, have to overcome personal or family difficulties, the solution of which requires coordinated actions in several countries or, in some cases, action only in the country of residence of the persons concerned;

(b) To study from an international standpoint the conditions and consequences of migration in relation to individual and family life, and as a result of these studies to make recommendations or undertake any other appropriate action;

(c) To contribute to the prevention of social problems linked to migration or intercountry mobility;

(d) To inform professionals and the public of the needs of migrant individuals and families;

(e) To develop and maintain an international network of national bodies able to meet the needs of individuals and families who require the services of ISS.

ISS presently has 19 national branches and affiliated bureaux, and correspondents in 100 other countries.

New affiliations: Israel (1995), New Zealand (1996).

Additional sources of funding were obtained through international projects related to two areas: (a) separate and unaccompanied children; (b) protection of children and international cooperation in matters of adoption.

Participation in United Nations meetings

Participation:

(a) United Nations: Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, 5 July 1995 in Geneva;

(b) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Executive Committee and UNHCR/Non-Governmental Organization Consultation in October 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. ISS contributed annually to the statements submitted by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) to the Executive Committee of UNHCR;

(c) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): ongoing participation through the NGO Committee on UNICEF (ISS has been a Board member since 1996);

(d) Committee on the Rights of the Child: ongoing participation through the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ISS also participated in the following conferences and seminars:

(a) Regional Consultation on the Graça Machel study on the impact of armed conflict on children, Florence, Italy, June 1996;

(b) UNHCR consultation on unaccompanied children seeking asylum, Geneva, September 1996;

(c) Joint UNICEF/NGO Committee on UNICEF workshop at WorldAid, Geneva, October 1996;

(d) The two Bellagio conferences on unaccompanied children, Bellagio, Italy, March 1994 and January 1997.

ISS presented papers at each of the above conferences, and chaired the second Bellagio Conference.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Staff and budget constraints have forced ISS to set priorities in its cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies. UNHCR and UNICEF remain the major partners.

With UNHCR, project agreements are in operation with ISS branches in Greece; China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; France; and Switzerland.

With UNICEF, ISS General Secretariat especially has concentrated on the promotion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, particularly as regards:

(a) Separated children in terms of:

(i) A series of consultations (1995–1997) on children from the former Yugoslavia received in Western European countries;

(ii) Integration into families of separated and orphaned children in Rwanda following the 1994 events (1995 to present);

(b) Intercountry adoption: ISS has developed an International Resource Centre (IRC) on the Protection of Children in Intercountry Adoption. Its main activities are:

(i) Analysis of national laws to assess their conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 30 countries. Eleven of these analyses have been published by Kluwer Law International/Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, in two issues;

(ii) Studies on practices in eight countries;

(iii) A Documentation and Information Unit, which is in operation in Geneva;

(iv) The ISS/IRC was asked by UNICEF to provide expertise for establishing the contents and identifying the experts for a training workshop held in Albania on family alternatives for the protection of children abandoned or at risk of abandonment (December 1997).

Other relevant activities

Implementation of United Nations resolutions

ISS General Secretariat continues to circulate regularly United Nations documents and information material relating to areas of special interest to ISS units, for action, where appropriate, for the purpose of an approach to their national authorities, and for the information of local services. Reports on ISS cooperation with the United Nations are made to the Executive Committee once a year, and to the full International Council every three years.

The *ISS Newsletter*, published twice a year, in English and French, contains information on United Nations activities: resolutions, reports and documents; distributed to 300 partners on all continents, ISS network is actively involved in the promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ISS (General Secretariat and some branches) presented a document to the Hague conference in relation to the revision of the 1961 Convention on the protection of minors, and attended the final session on the 1996 revised text. The main purpose was to ensure that relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are incorporated in the new convention on the protection of children.

3. International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Aims and purposes of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)

The International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), constituted in 1970, is a multidisciplinary association of professionals worldwide who are involved in all aspects of the sciences or practices associated with the provision of prosthetic or orthotic care or rehabilitation engineering.

The aim of the Society is the promotion of the highest professional standards for its members and the best quality care for people with disability throughout the world. To achieve this, it acts as an international advisory body interacting with other international and national agencies, providing guidance and coordination, and seeking to achieve the optimal use of resources; it acts as a vehicle for the exchange of information through such means as the publication of its journal *Prosthetics and Orthotics International* and the organization of seminars, courses and conferences; it promotes and guides research, development and evaluation activities; it organizes, encourages and supports education and training activities of all the professions in this field; it guides and supports the activities of those providing care of people with physical disabilities; and it undertakes projects to facilitate high-level practice and is actively involved in the development of international standards.

Organization

The Society's membership is based on the individual professional. There are over 2,600 members in more than 75 countries worldwide. The total membership has been increasing at an average rate of 74 per annum over the last 12 years. Where there are more than five members in any country or region, they may band together to form a National or Regional Member Society. The National Member Societies select representatives to the International Committee. This Committee is responsible for ensuring that

the policies, plans and actions of the Society reflect the aims and aspirations of the membership and its professional, cultural and geographical variations.

The International Committee elects an Executive Board which supervises the activities of the Society and its various committees, provides the necessary executive action, and strives to secure adequate resources for all of the ongoing activities of the Society.

An Assembly of all members is organized every three years in conjunction with the Society's World Congress.

Activities of ISPO

Although National Member Societies may be very active within their own countries, the present report focuses on the international activities of the Society.

Consensus conferences

These events, usually five to seven days' duration, bring together acknowledged experts and representatives of key regions and interested non-governmental organizations to discuss an important issue and reach a consensus on best practice and future needs. During the period 1994–1997, the following consensus conferences were held:

(a) 1994, Durham, North Carolina, USA:

(i) To identify the best practice in the conservative lower limb management of cerebral palsy;

(ii) Report was published in 1995;

(b) 1995, Phnom Penh, Cambodia:

(i) To examine appropriate prosthetic technology for use in developing countries;

(ii) Held in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Health Organization (WHO);

(iii) Substantial funding received from USAID;

(iv) Report published in 1996;

(c) 1997, Hammamet, Tunisia:

(i) To consider the surgical and orthotic treatment of chronic poliomyelitis and post-polio syndrome;

(ii) Held in collaboration with WHO;

(iii) Report to be published during 1998.

Courses

During the last quadrennium, the Society organized a series of courses on "Amputation Surgery and Related Prosthetics" with lectures by internationally recognized experts and local professionals as follows:

(a) 1994: Pattaya, Thailand;

(b) 1994: Ljubljana, Slovenia;

(c) 1994: Madras, India;

(d) 1997: Helsingborg, Sweden;

(e) 1997: Jaipur, India.

Educational standards

The Society has attached great importance to the standard of education and training provided for those who fit prosthetic and orthotic devices to patients with disability. In an effort to encourage the best possible education and training in low-income countries, the Society carries out inspections of schools, by invitation, which result in ISPO recognition of the course of any school that achieves the required standard. The Society has produced an information package (October 1997) which includes a professional profile, learning objectives and examination content/format for the Category II Prosthetic/Orthotic Worker (Orthopaedic Technologist). This will be of great value to existing schools and to those wishing to introduce new educational programmes in low-income countries. A similar document is being developed to assist educational programmes in the industrialized world.

Dissemination of information

The Society publishes *Prosthetics and Orthotics International* which is a highly regarded refereed journal in the field of prosthetics and orthotics.

More recently, the Society has established its Web page (www.I-S-P-O.org) on the Internet.

Affiliation with other organizations

As well as being in special consultative status (category II) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Society is in Official Relations with WHO. The Society has participated in informal consultations with WHO and a number of the aforementioned Consensus conferences and courses have been held in collaboration with WHO.

ISPO is a member of Rehabilitation International and enjoys close working relations with:

African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)

Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)

Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung (DSE)

Handicap International (HI)

International Association of Orthotists and Prosthetists (INTERBOR)

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

International Commission on Technology and Access (ICTA)

Internationaler Verband der Orthopädie Schutechniker (IVO)

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC)

World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF)

Conclusion

ISPO has attached great importance to its status in relation to the United Nations during the last quadrennium. In its efforts to help all people with disability to achieve their full potential, the Society has derived great value, support and encouragement from its relationship with the United Nations.

4. International Statistical Institute

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Established in 1885, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) is one of the oldest international scientific associations functioning in the modern world. The Institute is an autonomous society that seeks to develop and improve statistical methods and their application throughout the world, and to encourage international cooperation and association between statisticians and the exchange of their professional knowledge and findings; to further the international integration of statistics by developing worldwide relations between statistical societies and other official and unofficial organizations having statistical interests; to contribute to the improvement of statistical education and to promote training in statistics; to advance the study of statistical theory, to appraise statistical methods and practices, to encourage statistical research and to further the application of statistical methods in all relevant fields; to promote the use of the most appropriate statistical methods in all countries; and to improve international comparability of statistical data.

Conferences, seminars and sessions

In the period 1994–1997 ISI staged two biennial sessions. The fiftieth biennial session, held in Beijing from 21 to 29 August 1995, involved over 1,200 international participants. Open meetings were held examining a diversity of issues. The fifty-first ISI session, held from 18 to 26 August 1997 in Istanbul, Turkey, was also a success with over 1,700 participants from all five continents. For the first time, more than a dozen organizations participated in the organization of an invited-paper meeting for the session. Another first for ISI: a three-day Workshop on Statistical Integration for Directors of National Statistical Offices in Asia was held during the Beijing session for the first time. ISI is grateful to the Asian Development Bank, for its support for the Workshop.

As a result of the Seventh and Eighth Competitions for Young Statisticians from Developing Countries, six (three from each session) gifted young statisticians were awarded their airfares and expenses to attend the Beijing and Istanbul sessions, their participation being financed by "Internationaal Statistisch Studiefonds", a special fund created during the forty-fifth session in Amsterdam to help promote statistical development in developing countries.

The Fourth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS), which was held from 25 to 30 July 1994 in Marrakech, Morocco, was a great success with more than 300 participants representing over 30 countries. The conference consisted of a broad programme that dealt with key issues in the teaching of statistics at all levels and the promoting of the importance of statistical ideas among the general public.

ISI has initiated a programme in which briefing seminars on international statistics are offered to Chief Statisticians who wish to expand their understanding of the existing international arrangements, with an inside look at the workings of an increasingly complex network. The project has been organized in cooperation with the Training of European Statisticians (TES) Institute. The 16 to 18 October 1995 Seminar involved more than a dozen people from around the world. This successful programme was repeated from 4 to 6 November 1996, with 18 participants from Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, South America and the Middle East. The 1997 Briefing Seminar has been postponed until 2 to 4 June 1998.

ISI has recently initiated a new category of meetings, entitled Cutting Edge Conferences. Relative to the very wide coverage of topics at the ISI sessions, the Special Conferences already deal with a more narrowly focused group of papers (usually eight papers or so), albeit in a

relatively broad manner, before an audience of perhaps 100–120 persons.

The New Cutting Edge Conferences, while they may have about the same number of papers (perhaps five to eight presentations), plan to discuss special issues of new statistical developments primarily for those working in an emerging area. Perhaps 40–50 persons may be expected at these conferences.

From 23 to 25 September 1996, a Cutting Edge Conference was held in Zürich focusing on financial mathematics, insurance and society. The meeting was organized by P. Embrechts (ETH Zürich) and O. Barndorff-Nielsen (Aarhus) and included eight engaging presentations.

A Cutting Edge Conference on "Statistical Issues in Sociology" was held at Nuffield College, Oxford from 14 to 16 November 1996 with the support of the United Kingdom Economic and Social Research Council and Nuffield College in association with ISI. A primary objective of the meeting was to find out what open statistical issues were of concern to research workers in sociology. A number of leading sociologists took part as well as a group of statisticians interested in this particular field.

In collaboration with the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea, a Cutting Edge Conference was held from 31 March to 2 April 1997 in Seoul to examine the demographic problems of countries changing to a market economy, with special regard to mortality and fertility trends. In addition to the important contributions of our Seoul colleagues, statisticians and demographers participated from several countries and from three continents (Europe, Asia and America).

On 21 and 22 April 1997, a Cutting Edge Conference on "Stock Market Indexes and Trading in Derivatives", was held in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Conference was co-sponsored by HSI Services, Ltd. (a subsidiary of Hang Seng Bank), by the Hong Kong Department of Census and Statistics and by Hong Kong Baptist University. The contributors and participants at the Conference came from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

On 10 and 11 November 1997, Voorburg, the Netherlands, was the scene for a Cutting Edge Conference entitled "Studying Poverty: Sir Frederick Morton Eden and Beyond" commemorating Eden's three-volume work entitled *The State of the Poor or a History of the Labouring Classes in England from the Conquest to the Present Period*, which had appeared in 1797. The Conference, featuring some 50 participants, was hosted by Statistics Netherlands, and jointly organized by the Institute of Social Studies and the World Bank.

Publications

Generally considered the "flagship" journal of ISI, the *International Statistical Review* has continued its step-by-step transformation into a publication of general interest to all members. Beginning with the appointment of two new editors, the *IS Review* aims to include a broader range of both theoretical and applied review papers, as indicated in their new editorial policy statement. *Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts* continues to provide worldwide coverage of published articles on mathematical statistics and probability. The *ISI Newsletter* has continued its role of providing an up-to-date account of the ongoing activities of ISI throughout the world. *Short Book Reviews* provides a rapid book review service for statisticians covering books on statistics and related subjects published throughout the world. The Proceedings of the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions were published as volumes 57 and 58 of the *ISI Bulletin*. The Executive Committee is very grateful to the Italian and Chinese Local Organizing Committees for the hard work that they put into the production of these volumes. In 1995 and 1997, ISI again produced and distributed an updated version of the Membership Directory. Unlike previous versions, the present Directory also includes (where available) telephone, fax and telex numbers and incorporates the Directory of Statistical Societies and the Directory of Statistical Agencies into its contents. Work is continuing on the volume entitled *Statisticians of the Centuries*. The purpose is to bring together information about the most outstanding statisticians of various countries over the last 300 years or so. Biographical information, references to scientific achievements, international influence (where appropriate) and other matters will be covered for the persons selected, and a picture (etching, painting or photograph) will be reproduced in the volume whenever feasible. Publication is expected in late 1998. The book *The Assessment Challenge in Statistics Education*, edited by Iddo Gal and Joan Garfield, has now been produced. Jointly published by ISI and the IOS Press, the book contains 19 chapters written by leading educators and researchers from several countries, discussing the conceptual and pragmatic issues in the assessment of statistical knowledge, reasoning skills and dispositions of students in diverse contexts of instruction, both at the college and at the pre-college levels.

Research

Work on large city statistics has continued in cooperation with NUREC (Network on Urban Research in

the European Union), the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and IULA (International Union of Local Authorities). The fifty-first session witnessed a special meeting addressing this topic, which will be followed up during the Istanbul session. At the Duisburg Statistical Office in Germany, NUREC has now received the results of the Large Cities Statistics Project (LCSP) and is pleased to report a high response rate to the LCSP questionnaire. As a result, data from an unexpectedly high percentage of the world's large cities (more than 100,000 inhabitants), covering a broad variety of indicators on demography, economic structure, housing, infrastructure, employment, local government finance and so on, are available. This work signals a promising renewal of earlier ISI work on the subject.

As ISI has set itself a goal of emphasizing its already strong commitment to the improvement of statistics and statistical sciences in developing countries, the need for an affordable dictionary has become more imperative. The developments in computers and in computer software have induced us to broaden our scope. The idea evolved of compiling an electronic database from which several products could emerge. These products range from simple printed dictionaries with a limited set of terms in a few languages to computer programmes for the complete set in many languages. The project of producing a contemporary multilingual dictionary of statistical terms was initiated in 1993, with ISI Senior Executive Corps member J. Dragt serving as project leader, and he has since then compiled a large amount of information in some 20 languages for the project. He has constructed a database that contains not only over 3,000 statistical terms in several languages, but also short descriptive texts, including formulae. An electronic version of the Dictionary has been developed with technical assistance provided by J. G. Bethlehem. Work on the database will continue with specialists from several countries who are being consulted for the process of checking the translations. A study has also begun to determine how languages with non-Roman scripts (such as Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Greek, Hebrew and so on) can best be included.

Education and advancement of statistics

During the last few years, ISI has continued its successful association with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). As part of the worldwide emphasis on human development, UNESCO is in the process of developing a strategy intended at improving the collection and analysis of information on education through population censuses and demographic surveys. In order to assess current practices regarding the use of population censuses for gathering information on education, UNESCO cooperated with ISI in launching a special survey on questions asked by countries in their population censuses. The survey yielded responses from more than 100 different countries. A meeting was held during the Istanbul session, examining various issues regarding questions about education in censuses. In 1994, the Director-General of UNESCO requested an in-depth review of UNESCO's statistical services as a result of the suggestions that had been expressed by many UNESCO member States. A strategic plan was developed to strengthening UNESCO's statistical programmes and services. This plan, submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board at its one hundred fifty-second session and to the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, authorized a resolution to initiate plans to transform the UNESCO Division of Statistics into a "UNESCO Statistical Institute" (the final name of the new institution is yet to be determined). The central objective of the new Institute is to provide countries and the international community with an internationally comparable information base in support of policy-making in the areas of science, education, culture and communication. The member States have suggested that plans to set up the UNESCO Statistical Institute should be based on consultations with national and international services and institutions, including information on the proposed work programme and expected collaborators as well as other financial and managerial matters. UNESCO has requested cooperation from ISI in launching the consultation process. As a result, ISI sent out letters to more than 185 national statistical institutes/offices of statistics in order to obtain views on how these organizations might be able to cooperate to assist the new Institute in its tasks, and to acquire input on the ways in which the Institute might work with the various cooperating countries. The results of the survey will be compiled and submitted to UNESCO for further study. Plans are in the works for ISI to promote and facilitate contact and cooperation between the new UNESCO institute and national institutes/offices of statistics in areas of common interests by means of consultations.

The International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), located in Calcutta, is operated by ISI and the Indian Statistical Institute, under the auspices of UNESCO and the Government of India. The Centre provides training in theoretical and applied statistics at various levels to selected participants from countries in the Middle East, South and South-East Asia and the Far East and from the Commonwealth countries in Asia. The Centre offers a 10-month (June to March) regular course of training every

year. ISI was pleased to support Professor W. S. Perriman's 4 January to 14 February 1997 visit to ISEC to take part in the regular training sessions, and to present several special lectures and seminars.

Discussions are presently under way with representatives from Mexico's National Statistical Office (INEGI) about the possibility of opening an ISEC-type operation in Mexico. INEGI representatives have reacted positively and follow-up discussions are being planned. Plans are also in the works to set up an additional ISEC in Ankara, Turkey, to accommodate the needs of that region. Finally, ISI continues to actively participate in the commemoration of important historical events regarding statistics.

ISI participated in the 1996 bicentennial activities dedicated to Adolphe Quetelet which were held in Brussels, Belgium. The colloquium was a great success, benefiting from the inputs of several ISI members, who presented papers examining various aspects of Quetelet's life and work.

From 18 to 20 November 1996, the Swiss Federal Statistics Office in cooperation with the ETH Zürich, the University of Genève and the authorities of Canton Ticino held a stimulating conference honouring the bicentennial of Stefano Franscini's birth in 1796.

5. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Aim and purpose

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) is dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and to advancing policy, programme and service initiatives that seek to reduce traumatic stressors and their immediate and long-term consequences. Since its inception in 1985, the Society has provided a forum for the sharing of research, clinical strategies, public policy concerns and theoretical formulations on trauma around the world through its education and training programmes and publications. The ISTSS commitment to the international dimensions of traumatic stress renders its status at and involvement with all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations an integral part of its mission. From 1993 to the present, the number of countries represented in the Society's membership has increased from 29 to 39.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

ISTSS representatives have attended the meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, including, for example, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

ISTSS representatives made oral and written statements involving the following:

(a) A representative was a featured speaker at a dinner hosted by Ruth Limjuco, Philippines' Ambassador to the United Nations, for delegates to the Economic and Social Council (24 March 1994) on trauma, particularly of migrant women;

(b) At the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (29 April–8 May 1995, Cairo, Egypt), ISTSS representatives addressed the plenary on Action Against National and Transnational and Organized Crime and the Role of Criminal Law in Protection of the Environment: National Experiences and International Cooperation (3 May), and convened two ancillary meetings: Reintegrating Children After War and Other Situations of Community Violence (4 May); Victims of Traumatic Stress: Respect, Restoration, Reparation and Protection (6 May);

(c) Conference on the International Day of Disabled Persons (3 December 1996);

(d) A representative participated in informal discussions during the thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development (March 1997);

(e) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board meeting (January 1997, items 4, 5 and 6; document E/ICEF/1997/2/8, November 1996);

(f) A representative participated in a working group on a resolution on children with disabilities towards its adoption by the Commission for Social Development (March 1997).

Attendance at international conferences:

(a) World Summit for Social Development (March 1995, Copenhagen, Denmark), following participation in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee involving work on the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and

Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

(b) Fourth World Conference on Women (September 1995, Beijing, China), following three years of work with Governments and non-governmental organizations to ensure the inclusion of traumatic stress concerns in the final Platform for Action;

(c) The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (29 April–8 May 1995, Cairo, Egypt);

(d) The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (June 1996, Istanbul, Turkey).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

ISTSS contributed to planning a World Mental Health Day meeting (9 October 1997), co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on Mental Health, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO), focusing on Children in Extreme Circumstances: Consequences for Mental Health.

An ISTSS representative participated in all preparatory committee meetings for the establishment of the International Criminal Court, making numerous oral and written presentations. By invitation, the representative attended a related International Conference (15–22 September 1997, Siracusa, Italy) on Reigning in Impunity for International Crimes and Serious Violations of Fundamental Human Rights.

A representative participated in two Meetings of Experts on Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power in the International Setting (15–23 December 1995, Vienna; 9–12 August 1996, Tulsa, Oklahoma) at the invitation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

A representative has served on the Executive Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council to the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (14–16 January, Milan; 16–19 September, 1994, Trento, Italy), and the NGO Alliance of Crime Control and Criminal Justice (New York, New York).

Other relevant activities

Two ISTSS representatives were elected as members of a nine-member Interim Bureau of the newly established NGO Committee on Mental Health (16 May 1996) and one to the permanent Executive Committee (January, 1997). This Committee works closely with the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs.

An ISTSS representative was a keynote speaker at the Foro Internacional de Prevencion y Violencia Domestica, (14–18 November 1996, Guadelajara, Mexico), at the invitation of the Department of Justice of Mexico.

A representative went on two missions at the invitation of the Croatian Government to train professionals, including from WHO, to help trauma victims (5–11 June 1995, Dubrovnik; 24–29 May 1996, Opatija).

Consultations and cooperation with United Nations officials

ISTSS consults regularly with officials of the United Nations Secretariat. These include John Langmore, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development; Andrew Joseph, Director, WHO Liaison Office, United Nations, New York; Janet Nelson, Senior Public Affairs Officer, UNICEF; Jane Connors, Chief, Women's Rights Unit, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women; Akiko Ito, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Social Policy and Development; Hans Corell, Legal Counsel; Gillian Sorenson, Assistant Secretary-General; Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General; Eduardo Vetere, Director, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, United Nations Office at Vienna; Elsa Stamatopoulou, Chief, New York Office of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights; Nigel S. Rodley, Special Rapporteur on Torture of the Commission on Human Rights; John Orley, WHO, Geneva; Mary Petevi, UNHCR, Geneva; Phillipe L. Boulle, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva; Flavio Del Ponte, Department of Peacekeeping Operations; Christine Ainetter Brautigam, Commission on the Status of Women.

Studies and articles regarding the United Nations

An ISTSS representative served as chief editor of the book *International Responses to Traumatic Stress: Humanitarian, Human Rights, Justice, Peace and Development Contributions, Collaborative Actions and Future Initiatives*, Y. Danieli, N. S. Rodley & L. Weisath, eds., published in 1996 for and on behalf of the United Nations by Baywood Publishing Company, Inc. The book, with a foreword contributed by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was launched 5 December 1995 at a meeting in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters. The event was hosted by the Governments of Norway and the Philippines. Royalties from the book are paid to the United Nations.

During the period 1994–1997, ISTSS representatives wrote seven articles on the United Nations, published in *Traumatic Stress Points*, the Society's newsletter: "World Summit for Social Development", vol. 9, No. 2 (spring 1995); "United Nations Congress addresses crime prevention and offender treatment", vol. 9, No. 3 (summer 1995); "Beijing and beyond", vol. 10, No. 2 (spring 1996); "Building bridges to the next millennium: the blueprints are ready", vol. 11, No. 2 (spring 1997); "United Nations commitment to the status of mentally disabled persons in developing countries", vol. 11, No. 3 (fall 1997); "Armed conflict's impact on children: a United Nations report", vol. 11, No. 1 (winter 1997); "A step toward meeting the rights of victims", vol. 12, No. 1 (winter 1998).

6. International Touring Alliance

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction, aims and purposes

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, the International Touring Alliance (AIT) has the pleasure of submitting herewith its quadrennial report for the period 1994 through 1997.

The International Touring Alliance (AIT) is a federation of automobile associations, touring clubs and tourist bodies, comprising 134 member associations divided among 97 countries of the world. The active member associations of the AIT number nearly 105 million individual club members worldwide. As an organization of such wide scope and importance representing both the interests of the motorist and those of the tourist in general, its opinions carry weight and it enjoys considerable international prestige.

Since its foundation in 1898, AIT has supported and encouraged the essential role played by tourism in promoting international understanding. One of its main objectives is to facilitate tourist travel, particularly with regard to the barriers restricting movement across national borders. In view of the increase in motorization which now accounts for the major part of tourist and private daily travel, AIT is working to harmonize international traffic regulations and to protect road users from abusive and restrictive taxation, control and legislation.

It recognizes the vital importance of travel by private car and of public transport in improving people's standard of living and for the national economy. AIT therefore aims to promote all measures that may contribute to road safety and the responsible use of all means of transport.

Other objectives of the AIT are:

(a) To coordinate a system of reciprocal services between member organizations for the benefit of their individual members when travelling abroad;

(b) To study, make recommendations and disseminate information on matters pertaining to tourism and mobility;

(c) To take part in relevant meetings and conferences and to maintain close relations with international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

AIT's principal areas of competence concern all questions relating to the movement of people: tourism, mobility, facilitation, the automobile, roads, infrastructure, traffic safety, energy conservation and protection of the environment.

Cooperation with the United Nations

For many years, AIT has worked in close cooperation with the United Nations and with its specialized institutions.

Each year, AIT takes part in numerous meetings of various United Nations working groups, principally those within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Geneva. AIT also attends certain meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat sessions and so on) and in Vienna.

Within ECE, AIT takes an active part in the work of the specialized working parties, to which it submits frequent written as well as oral reports on subjects related to transport, road safety, the construction of vehicles and customs and other matters. AIT participates in the following Working Groups: Inland Transport Committee, Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30), Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP.29), Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), Group of Experts on Pollution and Energy (WP.29/GRPE), Group of Experts on Passive Safety (WP.29/GRSP), Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) and the Ad hoc Meeting on Implementation of the Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

Within the framework of the activities of the United Nations specialized working parties, AIT plays a significant role in certain sectors. AIT was actively involved in the

revision of the United Nations Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) and the Convention on Road Traffic and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968). In connection with the aforementioned vehicles conventions, AIT is one of the principal international organizations that coordinates and oversees the customs documents network (carnets de passages and triptyques) facilitating the movement of private and commercial vehicles across borders.

AIT closely follows the activities of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) relating essentially to international exchanges in the fields of tourism, mobility, transport and environmental matters. It also keeps informed of related work carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

AIT attaches great importance to the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and, as shown in this report, takes an active part in their work insofar as it relates to AIT's fields of competence, notably those of tourism, mobility and transport.

7. International Union of Local Authorities (IULA)

(General consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

Founded in 1913, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) is the oldest and largest worldwide association of local governments. Its overall IULA mission statement is "to promote and unite democratic local government worldwide". IULA is dedicated to strengthening and improving local governments and their associations and to promoting cooperation and the flow of information between communities across the globe.

The current worldwide network of IULA is made up of a World Secretariat and seven Regional Sections serving the interests of local governments. Through the latter, services for, and programmes with, national associations and related institutions are coordinated. By the end of 1997, IULA had a membership of 392 in 104 countries worldwide. In addition, eight organizations and networks working in specific areas of local government are associated with IULA.

Participation and cooperation

IULA has a Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. G. Arno Loessner, who regularly keeps contact with officials in several United Nations agencies. IULA's Secretary-General has also made visits to New York for the express purpose of attending United Nations meetings and conferring with United Nations offices. IULA leaders met at several occasions with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The most recent meeting of this kind was in July 1997 when IULA President Burger met with Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Other relevant activities

In the preparation process, through the three sessions of its Preparatory Committee and in a series of consultations, IULA has been an active local government partner for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in June 1996 in Istanbul. Together with other local government organizations, IULA organized the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA) on the eve of Habitat II in Istanbul (30 and 31 May 1996). From May 1995 through June 1996, IULA held the Technical Secretariat of the Group of Four 4+ Local Authorities Habitat II Steering Committee. Contacts with staff of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) were regular; Secretary-General of the Conference discussed local government input with the IULA World Executive Committee at its meeting in The Hague on 3 September 1995. The whole IULA network, including its Regional Sections and associated organizations, undertook a considerable effort to ensure the success of WACLA and Habitat II.

Since Habitat II, IULA has been an active local government partner, directly and through the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC), in the follow-up process.

Both in the preparation processes for and in the actual events, several United Nations agencies have been involved in the IULA World Congresses of 1995 in The Hague, the Netherlands, and of 1997 in Mauritius. An International Partners Meeting, organized by the 1995 Congress organizers in The Hague on 16 March 1994, involved several senior staff from key agencies. The United Nations

Secretary-General spoke at the opening session of the 1995 Congress through a video message.

Close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as co-organizer for the 1994 Colloquium of Mayors on Social Development (August 1994 in New York) was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations in November 1996. In 1997, UNDP and IULA cooperated again in the organization of the Colloquium of Mayors (28–31 July 1997 in New York) at UNDP's International Conference on Governance for Sustainable Growth and Equity. The Colloquium was chaired by IULA President Burger. The IULA Office for Research and Training (associated organization to IULA) wrote a background report and carried out a survey of Mayors for UNDP. In 1997, further possibilities for cooperation were explored, to be implemented in 1998.

IULA has, through its members and its associated organization, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), participated in several sessions of the Commission for Social Development.

IULA and some of its Regional Sections have been approached to work closely with partners in the Urban Management Programme and the Municipal Development Programme.

IULA and its European Regional Section have been active in the preparations for and during the session of the Preparatory Committee (New York, January 1995) for the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995 in Copenhagen.

Along with the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), IULA is one of the partners in the Large Cities Statistical project, which started in 1993.

The Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat approached IULA for advice to their Metropolitan and Municipal Management Programme.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) approached IULA for advice on regional and local government and intergovernmental relations.

On 27 June 1997, IULA World Executive Committee member Collin Matjila addressed the nineteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on sustainable development and the "Earth Summit": five years later.

On behalf of IULA and local government, the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), an associated organization of IULA, has played a very active role within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

One of IULA's Regional Sections is active in the LIFE programme.

At the end of 1997, discussions on and preparations for a joint project were initiated between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and IULA.

8. International Union of Public Transport

(Special consultative status granted 1955)

Background

Founded in 1885, the International Union of Public Transport (UITP) provides services for its 1,700 members from over 80 countries and is the international organization for transport operators, authorities and suppliers. It is an authoritative source of information, statistics and analysis about issues related to urban and regional mobility including all modes of public transport (rail and road). UITP provides information about infrastructure, yearly investments, rolling stock transport systems, human resources and telecommunications, and organizes congresses, conferences and exhibitions.

The UITP counts 1,700 members to date, including:

(a) Effective members (operators, authorities, national associations);

(b) Associate members (industries, universities, consultancies and so on);

(c) Personal members;

(d) Honorary members;

(e) Commission members (actively involved in the working programme of one of the 15 international commissions).

General activities, 1994–1997

UITP organizes one congress with an exhibition every two year (odd years). In 1995, the congress took place in Paris, France (May); in 1997 the congress was held in Stuttgart, Germany. Moreover, other conferences on special themes are organized every year:

(a) February 1994, Bologna: Conference, Managing Fare Collection;

(b) September 1994, Brussels: Seminar, Introduction Fourth Framework;

(c) September 1994, Amsterdam: Conference, Euroday; Conference, Light Rail and exhibition;

(d) November 1994, Brussels: Seminar, Fourth Framework;

(e) April 1995, Florence: Conference, Contracting for Public Transport and exhibition;

(f) May 1995, Marseille: pre-Conference study tour;

(g) August 1995, Bruges: Conference, Innovations in Public Transport and exhibition;

(h) February 1996, Bologna: Conference, Integrated Revenue and Ticketing Systems;

(i) February 1996, Florence: post-Conference study tour;

(j) April 1996, Brussels: Conference, Euroday;

(k) May 1996, Konstanz: Conference, Regional Transport and exhibition;

(l) June 1996, Gothenburg: Conference, What can Technology do for Passenger Information and exhibition;

(m) October 1996: San José: Conference, Light Rail;

(n) October 1996, Los Angeles: post-Conference tour;

(o) May 1997, Berlin/Hannover: pre-Conference study tour;

(p) June 1997, Palermo: Conference, Regional Transport;

(q) November 1997, Berlin: Conference, Security.

Activities concerning the United Nations

Activities encompassed:

(a) 1995: active collaboration of UITP in the elaboration of the best practices initiative (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), sponsored "Best Practices in Transport");

(b) 27 and 28 September 1995: Habitat and Urban Development Round Table;

(c) 6–8 November 1995, Shanghai: Seminar on Public Transport for a Growing City; National and Foreign Investment in Bus Operations in China;

(d) 5–16 February 1996, New York: participation in Preparatory Committee for Habitat II;

(e) 3–14 June 1996, Istanbul: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), City Summit: Participation in Habitat II; dialogue on transport entitled "Transport in the City of Tomorrow" (co-organizer of this session: Secretary-General, Pierre Laconte); UITP was represented by Secretary-General Pierre Laconte and Andy Anderson of London Transport Planning;

(f) Results from Habitat II: at the Habitat II Cities Summit UITP, represented by the General Secretary and Andy Anderson, obtained modifications to the agenda which included a commitment to sustainable transport, and in particular to applying the polluter pays principle to transport; to support for public transport; and to ensuring a more efficient and sustainable use of road infrastructure;

(g) 13–14 November 1996, Palais des Nations, Geneva: within the Working Party on Transport Statistics: second informal Preparatory Meeting on the Workshop on Urban Transport and Environment Statistics;

(h) 13–15 November 1996, Palais des Nations, Geneva: Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP 6), forty-seventh session: attendance of UITP as a non-governmental organization represented by Jack Penissard, consultant; documentation, TRANS/WP.6/131 CES/AC.62/83 of 5 December 1996;

(i) 22 February–7 March 1997, United Nations, New York: UITP (represented by Andy Anderson) was involved in lobbying the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Sustainable Development assisting in the preparation for the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

(j) April 1997: Commission on Sustainable Development session;

(k) April 1997: Prospective policy brief on the evolution of transport policies over the next 20 years sent to Jérôme Bindé, Director, Analysis and Forecasting Unit, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

(l) 5–7 May 1997, Geneva: Preparatory Committee for the 1997 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment;

(m) 12–15 May 1997, Washington, D.C.: Workshop on Urban Passenger Transportation and Environmental Statistics; UITP co-sponsored the Workshop with the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United States Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(n) 23–27 June 1997 "Earth Summit II", New York: UITP co-organized a Transport Panel "Transport and environment: how to assure the liaison";

(o) 31 July–7 August 1997: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(p) 16 and 17 October 1997, Bonn: Climate Network Europe (CNE), Conference on Climate Change entitled "Targeting Kyoto and Beyond", participation;

(q) 12–14 November 1997, Vienna: Regional Conference of the United Nations on "Transport and Environment": UITP co-organization of a seminar on the topic of the statistics to be gathered; attendance of Andy Anderson on behalf of UITP;

(r) 1–10 December 1997, Kyoto: Kyoto Conference on Climate Change; Mr. Laconte spoke on the Kyoto Conference, which he had attended as a member of the delegation of the Belgian Government and on behalf of UITP. Promotion of the role of public transport in combating climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Updated information on the UITP is available on our Web site www.uitp.com.

9. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) aims to support indigenous peoples in their struggle to improve general life conditions, to improve relationships with the nation States of which they are a part and to increase control of the global economic and political forces that affect their lives.

IWGIA's activities focus on human rights work, research, documentation and dissemination of information and project work in cooperation with indigenous peoples organizations and communities. IWGIA works in all parts of the world where indigenous peoples live.

IWGIA's structure consists of the international board, an advisory board, national groups and the international secretariat. The international secretariat is based in Copenhagen. There are national groups in Switzerland, Sweden, the Russian Federation, Norway and Denmark.

The work of IWGIA is funded by subscribers to the publications, individual donations, donations from Nordic Governments, income from projects, private funds and other types of funds.

One of IWGIA's major activities is to document the situation of indigenous peoples all over the world. The documentation produced by IWGIA over the last 30 years is of an outstanding character as an information source about the situation of indigenous peoples worldwide. Every year, *The Indigenous World* is published in English and Spanish. It gives and overview of the most important events affecting indigenous peoples from all over the world, including United Nations meetings. *Indigenous Affairs* is a periodical published four times a year in an English and a Spanish edition. It contains articles on current affairs concerning indigenous peoples, news in brief and comments. *Documents* are in-depth treatments of thematic or regional issues. Two to five documents are published every year in English and in Spanish. A few publications have also come out in French, Russian and Danish. IWGIA's publications are distributed free of charge among indigenous organizations all over the world.

IWGIA is an active participant in the international human rights arena when indigenous issues are being dealt with. A specific aim of IWGIA is to support, facilitate and promote the participation of indigenous representatives in United Nations meetings, when the indigenous issue is in the agenda.

During the period 1994–1997, IWGIA not only continued but increased its involvement in the recognition of the rights of the indigenous peoples within the United Nations system. The focus for its efforts has been to work for the adoption of the United Nations draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples in the United Nations system. Parallel to the human rights initiatives, IWGIA has been following the United Nations process of creating and implementing global instruments for the environment, especially, the United Nations discussion on the implementation of Agenda 21 through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which in article 8 (j) raises the question of the rights of indigenous peoples.

In each of these years, IWGIA has had a delegation of four to eight persons to the following United Nations meetings: Commission on Human Rights, United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, United

Nations workshops on the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples, third and fourth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the third and fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Every year, the IWGIA publication *The Indigenous World* reports on developments that occurred in those meetings. Statements from indigenous representatives given at the above-mentioned meetings are being reprinted in the periodical *Indigenous Affairs*.

Together with four other European organizations, IWGIA is one of the founding members of the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples (HRFIP). The aim of this fund is to raise money to cover expenses so that indigenous peoples can participate in United Nations meetings. From 1994 to 1997, funding was raised to allow more than 100 indigenous representatives from all over the world to participate in the above-mentioned meetings. HRFIP receives the money it raises from churches, private foundations and public institutions.

Through IWGIA and through HRFIP, IWGIA during these four years has facilitated the presence of a great number of indigenous representatives at the United Nations meetings and thereby contributed substantially to their outcome.

IWGIA is in regular contact with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 1997, IWGIA published the document "Human rights and indigenous peoples: a manual on the United Nations system" in Spanish, and in 1998 the English and French versions will be published.

IWGIA is continuously working to have Governments recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, and organizes seminars and meetings in this respect. Since 1992 IWGIA (with four other organizations) has established an office in Brussels with the specific aim of promoting the rights of indigenous peoples within the European Community (European Union).

10. International Young Christian Workers

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

Aims and purposes

International Young Christian Workers (IYCW) is an organization open to all young people irrespective of race, creed, religion, sex. It is organized by, for and among them. The aim of IYCW is to allow young workers, unemployed and underemployed or studying, to discover their human dignity, and to train them so that they may assume responsibility for finding solutions to the concrete situations that they face at local, national and international levels. IYCW promotes an intercultural society where justice, peace and solidarity prevail.

At present, IYCW has a network of national affiliates in 62 countries: Africa, 13; Asia and Pacific, 17; North and South America, 19; Europe 13.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Participation was as follows:

(a)	September 1995:	the International President attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China;
(b)	May 1996:	the Secretary-General sent the IYCW vote for the elections of United Nations Non-Governmental Organization/Department of Public Information executives;
(c)	September 1996:	the National President of YCW Belgium represented IYCW at the United Nations Information Centre for the Benelux meeting, Brussels, Belgium;
(d)	September 1997:	two regional team members of IYCW in Quito attended the United Nations/Department of Public Information Fiftieth Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations on "Building partnerships", New York, United States of America.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Cooperation was as follows:

(a) June 1994: General Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva: Secretary-General attended;

(b) June 1996: Eighty-third General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Geneva: Secretary-General and National Coordinator of Switzerland YCW attended;

(c) June 1997: Eighty-Fifth General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Geneva: Secretary-General attended;

(d) August 1997: Youth International Catholic Organization and UNESCO on "Youth Participation in Building a Culture of Peace" Conference, Paris, France: Secretary-General and International President attended.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions at international, regional or national level

The Secretary-General quoted the ILO conventions on the promotion of workers' rights in the IYCW international solidarity campaign with the plantation workers in Colombia in 1996, with Panpaper Mills Factory workers in Webuye, Kenya, in 1997, with Thailand Par Garments workers in 1996 and 1997, and with Philippine NS Transport workers struggle in 1997.

The appeal was made to the employers to respect the ILO conventions that had been ratified by the respective Governments of the countries concerned. The appeal was also made to the Labour of Offices of the countries concerned to uphold the ILO conventions.

Similarly in 1996, the Secretary-General quoted the ILO conventions on the promotion of workers' rights in support of the workers' struggle in the Republic of Korea.

The Secretary-General quoted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the IYCW campaign for the fair trial and release of Irene Fernandez in 1996. Irene was a former YCW leader in Malaysia detained by Malaysian authorities for exposing the abuse, torture and unfair treatment of migrant workers in detention camps.

IYCW, represented by its Secretary-General, is a founding member of "Social Alert", a Brussels-based collective human rights watch centre that advocates on behalf of respect for and implementation of the provisions on collective economic and social rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

The Secretary-General sent pressure letters to the United States Congress, with regard to United States payment of its debts to the United Nations, in 1996.